

HE
6495
.A8
copy 2

FT MEADE
GenColl

5
A51
copy 2

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

~~HE 6495~~

Chap. Copyright No.

Shelf, A. 8

Copy 2

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

POST OFFICE DEPT OF AMERICA,



The U.S. Post Office Dept.
Washington, D.C.

AND

AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES:©.

Post Office Department of America.
1639.

(From the original in Mass. Archives. Vol. 1, p. 268.)

The 5th day of the 9th mo 1639
The Generall Court met at Boston

for preventing the miscarriage of letters & It is ordered
that notice be given that Richard Fairbanks his house in
Boston is the place appointed for all letters, whether
brought from beyond the seas, or are to be sent thither;
are to be brought unto, & he is to take care that they be
delivered, or sent according to their directions, & he is alow-
ed for every such letter a 1^d & must answer all miscarriages
through his own neglect in this line; provided that
no man shall be compelled to bring his letters thither
except for pleasure.

The 5th day of the 9th mo, 1639.
The General Court met at Boston.

For preventing the miscarriage of
letters & It is ordered that notice
be given that Richard Fairbanks, his
house in Boston is the place appointed
for all letters which are brought from
beyond the seas, or are to be sent
thither; are to be brought unto, & he is
to take care that they be delivered, or
sent according to their directions, & he
is allowed for every such letter a 1^d &
must answer all miscarriages through
his own neglect in this line; provided
that no man shall be compelled to
bring his letters thither except he
please.

(From the original in Mass. Archives. Vol. 88, No. 312.)

To the Hono^{ble} Gene^{ral} Court now sitting in
Boston May 23^d 1677

We whose names are under written having many complaints
made by merchants and others (and several of us being sensible) of
the loss of letters: whereby merchants especially with their friends
and employed in foreign parts are greatly damaged: many
times the letters imported are thrown upon the Exchange so that
who will, may take them up; no person (with out some satisfaction)
being willing to trouble their houses therewith: so that letters of
great moment are frequently lost

Our humble request therefore to this hono^{ble} Court is: that
they will please to depute some meet person, to take in and
carry letters according to direction and if the hono^{ble} Court
please, we suppose ^{of} Richard they may be a fit person
for that service

The deputies have granted the petition
that desire herein & in Richard may some
do make choice of Mr John Hayward the
scribes to be the man the Honored magistrats
Consenting hereto ~
28 May 1677

Confused by the magist William Town, Clerk
and Laurence

The Deputies
The Deputies

Richard Vane
John Vane
Charles Lister
Benja^{am} Davis
John Hayward
John Vane
Richard Vane
Samuel Sheafe
Edward & Sippert
Rich^{ard} Pringle
Jn^o Hubbard
Edward Drinkwater

Henry Dering
John Clarke
John Gynchen

PRINTED FROM PLATES MADE BY THE

JOHN ANDREW & SON CO.,

196 SUMMER STREET,

BOSTON, MASS.

COPYRIGHT BY

THE AMERICAN POSTAL
MACHINES CO.

1890.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF AMERICA, 1693.

From the original in Mass. Archives. Vol. 88, Nos. 315 to 320.

AN ACT ENCOURAGING A POST OFFICE.

Whereas their Most Excellent Maj^{ties} by their Letters patents under the Great Seale of Eng^d bearing date the 17th day of February in y^e year of Our L^d 1691. hath given unto Thomas Neale Esq^r his Exce^{rs} Admin^{rs} & Assignes full power & authority to Erect Settle & Establish w^{thin} y^e Chief ports of their s^d Maj^{ties} Colonys & plantations in America an office or offices for y^e Receiving & Dispatching of Letters & paequetts & to Receive Send & Deliver y^e same under such Rates & Sumes of money as y^e planters shall agree to give &c—to hold and Enjoy the same for y^e Terme of twenty one years wth such powers & clauses as are necessary on that behalfe as by the s^d Letters patents Relation being thereunto had may more fully & at large appear & whereas Andrew Hamilton Esq^r is Deputed & Constituted to Govern & manage y^e s^d Gener^l Post office for & throughout all their Maj^{ties} Plantations & Colonys in y^e main land or Continent of America & the Islands adjacent thereunto pursuant to y^e Directions of y^e s^d Letters Patents & whereas he s^d Andrew Hamilton hath made application to his Exelleney & Councill & Representatives Convened in Gener^l Assembly y^t y^v would Ascertain & Establish Such Rates & Sumes of money upon Letters & Paequetts that shall be Received & dispatched by the s^d Office or Officer for ye Effcetnal Encouragem^t of the s^d Gener^l Post office & for y^e Quicker Maintenance of Mutuall Correspondence amongst all the neighbouring Colonys and Plantations afores^d & y^t Trade & Comerce may be the better preserved Be it therefore Enacted by the Gov^r & Councill & Representatives Convened in generall Assembly & by the Authority of the same that there be from henceforth a Gener^l Letter Office Erected & Established in some Convenient place w^{thin} the Town of Boston from whence all Letters & paequetts whatsoever may be wth speed & Expedition sent into any part of the neighbouring Colonys & plantations on the main land & Continent of America or unto any of their Maj^{ties} Kingdoms & Dominions beyond y^e seas at w^{ch} s^d office all Returnes & Answers may be like wise Rece^d & y^t one Master of y^e s^d Gener^l Letter office shall from Time to Time be appointed by y^e s^d Andrew Hamilton—w^{ch} s^d Master of y^e office or his serv^t or agent & no other person or persons whatsoever shall from time to time have y^e Reeceiving taking up Ordering Dispatching sending post or wth speed & delivering of Letters & paequetts whatsoever w^{ch} shall from time to time be sent to and from all & Every y^e Adjacent Colonys & plantations on this main Land & Continent of America or any other their Maj^{ties} Kingdoms & Dominions beyond y^e seas where he y^e s^d post Master Gener^l shall settle or Cause to be settled posts or Running Messengers for y^t purpose execept such Letters of Merch^{ts} & masters w^{ch} shall be sent by any Masters of any ships boat or other vessells of Merchandise or by any other person Employed by them for y^e Carriage of such Letters afores^d according to y^e Respective directions & also execept Letters to be sent by any private friend or friends in their way of Journey or travayle or by any Messenger or Messengers sent on purpose for or Concerning the private affayrs of any person & persons, & be it further Enacted by the Authority afores^d that it shall & may be Lawfull to & for y^e post master Gener^l afores^d & his Deputy & Deputys by him thereunto Sufficently authorized to Demand have Receive and take for y^e portage & Conveyance of all such Letters w^{ch} he shall so Convey Carry or send post as afores^d according to the sever^l Rates & Sumes of Curr^t money of this province hereafter mentioned nor to exceed the same that is to say for y^e port of every single Letter from Europe the west Indies or other parts beyond ye seas two pence & all Letters are to be accounted single tho' they Contain Bills of Loading Gazetts Invoyees &c—and for each Paequett of Letters from the places afores^d four pence, and a paequett shall be accounted 3 Letters at y^e Least and for the port of every Single Letter from Road Island to Boston or from Boston to Road Island Six pence & so in proportion to y^e Greatness & Quantity of Letters & for the port of each single Letter from the post Road in Connecticot Colony to Boston, nine pence & so in proportion as afores^d & for y^e port

of each single Letter from the City of New York twelve pence & so in proportion as afores^d & for the port of each single Letter from y^e provinces of East or west Jersey or Pensilvania fifteen pence & so in proportion as afores^d & for y^e port of each single Letter from Mary land or Virginia two shillings each single Letter & so in proportion as afores^d & for y^e port of each single Letter from Salem 2^d from Ipswich Newbury or other places Eastw^d of Salem w^{thin} this province 4^d & from Piseataqua Six pence and so in proportion as afores^d & if any Letters or paequetts shall lye & Remain in the office uncalled for by y^e space of forty Eight hours the post master then sending them forth to the Respective houses of y^e persons to whom they are directed shall have & Reeive one penny more for each Letter or Paequett, & be it further Enacted by y^e Authority afores^d that no person or persons whatsoever or body Politiek or Corporate other yⁿ y^e Post ma^r Generall afores^d shall presume to Carry Recarry or deliver Letters for hire other yⁿ as before excepted or to sett up or Employ any foot post horse post or Paequett Boat whatsoever for y^e Carrying Conveying & Recarrying of any Letters or Paequetts by sea or Land w^{thin} this province or shall provide & maintain horses & furniture for the Equipping of any persons Riding post wth a guide and horn as is usuall in their Maj^{ties} Realm of Eng^d upon the pain of forfeiting the sume of forty pounds curr^t money of this province for every severall offence ag^t y^e Tenor of this present Act to be sued & Recovered in any Court of Record w^{thin} this province by Bill Plaint or Information wherein no Essoyue protection or wager of Law shall be Allowed one half of the s^d forfeiture to y^e Maj^{ties} towards y^e Support of y^e Governm^t & y^e Contingent Charges thereof y^e other half to the post ma^r Gener^l who shall sue & prosecute for the same, & be it further Enacted by y^e Authority afores^d that all Letters & paequetts y^t by any Ma^r of any Ship or Vessell or any of his Company or any Passenger therein shall or may be brought to this port of Boston other yⁿ such Letters as are before Excepted shall by such Ma^r Passenger or other person be forthwth delivered unto the post ma^r of Boston for y^e time being or unto his serv^{ts} or agents by him or them to be delivered according to y^e severall & Respective directions of y^e same the s^d Post ma^r or his Serv^{ts} paying to y^e Ma^r of any such ship or vessell so delivering in his Letters a half penny for every Letter or Paequett, and it is further Enacted by y^e Authority afores^d that the Post ma^r Gener^l his officers or serv^{ts} shall Continue Constant Posts for y^e Carriage of Letters to y^e severall Places & Stages abovementioned & shall seasonably & faithfully deliver forth y^e Letters according to y^e Intent of this act upon pain of forfeiture for Every Omission five pounds, To be Reecovered as afores^d & to be disposed y^e one half to y^e Maj^{ties} as afores^d y^e other half to y^e party aggrieved who shall sue for y^e same, & it is further Enacted y^t y^e s^d post ma^r his agents or serv^{ts} upon y^e Coming in of every post doe Mark Every Letter wth a print to shew y^e day of y^e moneth & year when Every Letter came in—and it is further Enacted by y^e Authority afores^d that if any ferryman w^{thin} this their Maj^{ties} province shall at any time neglect Refuse or delay y^e Conveying over his or their ferry any post man or his horse he shall forfeit y^e sume of five pounds to be Recovered & disposed as the penalty before by this Aet layd upon such as shall sett up any post or Paequett Boat, Provided that this Act nor anything therein Contained shall continue in force any Longer than 3 years from & after the Publication thereof any thing herein to y^e Contrary notwthstanding—and it is further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all Letters of Publiek concernment for their Maj^{ties} Service from time to time and at all times shall be received dispatched away and delivered with all possible speed according to the respective directions thereon free of all charge and without demanding or receiving any money or pay for the same anything hereinbefore contained notwithstanding.

Past. June 9th 1693.

See also printed Acts and Resolves of Mass. Vol. 1, p. 115. Boston, 1869.
Collections of Mass. Historical Society, 3d Series, Vol. VII., pp. 48-89. Boston, 1838.

Post Office Department of America.

1712 TO 1890.

The Letters Patent to Thomas Neale, Esq., terminating in 1712, the Ministry of Great Britain took possession of the Post Office Department of North America, under an Act of Parliament passed in 1710, and continued Col. Andrew Hamilton in office as Postmaster-General.

Mass. Archives. Vol. 88. Nos. 321-381.

In 1743, Head Lynch, Esq., held the office, and in 1753, Dr. Benjamin Franklin was appointed, who, for the first time in its history, made the Department "of great convenience to the Colonies and a source of revenue to the Mother Country."

The Ministry removed Dr. Franklin in 1773-4, and used the Department to heavily tax the Colonies.

American Archives, 4th Series. Vol. 1, pp. 500-504, etc.

A "New American Post Office" having been organized, Dr. Franklin was appointed Postmaster-General by the Continental Congress, July 26, 1775. He was succeeded by his son-in-law, Richard Bache, November 7, 1776, and by Ebenezer Hazard, January 28, 1782.

Under the Federal Government the headquarters of the Department were removed from New York to Philadelphia in 1790-1, and were finally established at Washington in 1799, with the following Postmasters-General:—

	APPOINTED.	NO. OF POST OFFICES.
Samuel Osgood,	September 26, 1789,	75
Timothy Pickering,	August 12, 1791,	
Joseph Habersham,	February 25, 1795,	453
Gideon Grauger,	November 28, 1801,	903
Return J. Meigs, Jr.,	March 17, 1814,	3,000
John McLean,	June 26, 1823,	4,043
William T. Barry,	March 9, 1829,	8,004
Amos Kendall,	May 1, 1835,	10,770
John M. Niles,	May 25, 1840,	13,468
Francis Granger,	March 6, 1841,	
Charles A. Wickliffe,	September 13, 1841,	13,778
Cave Johnson,	March 6, 1845,	14,183
Jacob Collamer,	March 8, 1849,	16,749
Nathan K. Hall,	July 23, 1850,	18,417
Samuel D. Hubbard,	August 31, 1852,	20,901
James Campbell,	March 5, 1853,	22,320
Aaron V. Brown,	March 6, 1857,	26,586
Joseph Holt,	March 14, 1859,	28,539
Horatio King,	February 12, 1861,	
Montgomery Blair,	March 5, 1861,	28,586
William Dennison,	September 24, 1864,	28,878
Alexander W. Randall,	July 25, 1866,	23,828
John A. J. Creswell,	March 5, 1869,	27,106
James W. Marshall,	July 7, 1874,	
Marshall Jewell,	August 24, 1874,	34,294
James N. Tyner,	July 12, 1876,	36,383
David M. Key,	March 12, 1877,	37,345
Horace Maynard,	June 2, 1880,	42,989
Thomas L. James,	March 5, 1881,	
Timothy O. Howe,	December 20, 1881,	44,512
Walter Q. Gresham,	April 3, 1883,	47,863
Frank Hatton,	October 14, 1884,	50,017
William F. Vilas,	March 6, 1885,	51,252
Don M. Dickinson,	January 16, 1888,	57,376
John Wanamaker,	March 5, 1889,	58,999

Rates of Postage:

1792.	On each single letter, 6 cts. to 25 cts., according to distance
1799.	" " 8 cts. to 25 cts., " " "
1816.	" " 6 cts. to 25 cts., " " "
1845.	Under 300 miles, 5 cts.; over 300 miles, 10 cts.
1851.	" 3,000 " prepaid, 3 cts.; not prepaid, 5 cts.
1863.	3 cts.
1883.	2 cts.

Postage Stamps first used in England in 1840; in the U. S. in 1847.

From the Annual Report of the Postmaster-General of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1889.

"The Post Office is the visible form of the Federal Government to every community and to every citizen. Its hand is the only one that touches the local life, the social interests and business concern of every neighborhood. It brings the Government to every door in the land, and makes it the ready and faithful servitor of every interest of commerce and society. The people from whom alone this all-pervading agency springs into action, and by whose encouragement alone it can supply their jealous needs, simply want the system administered with such efficiency and economy that it shall offer them more and more accommodations and tax them less and less. The only method I can suggest by which all their desires may be gratified, is not merely to talk about the application of business principles to the department, it is really to apply them. * * *

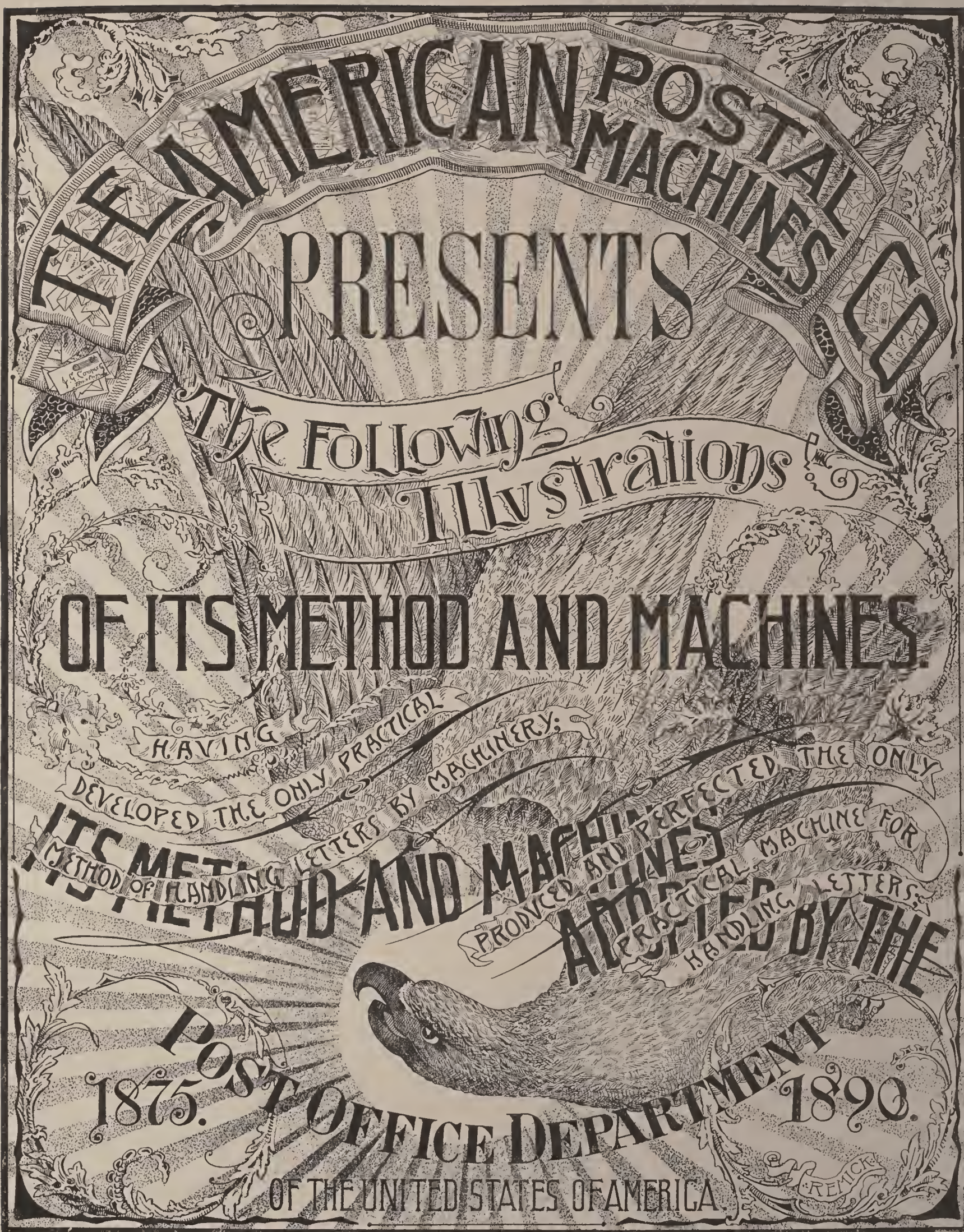
"An idle minute may be felt across a continent.

* * *

"One wasted minute often means a mail ten hours late all the way along a run of 1,000 miles."

THE demands upon the Post Office Department for more rapid transmission of mails are frequent and pressing.

Vast quantities of mail matter are deposited in post offices only a few moments before the closing of mails; upon each separate letter the stamp must be cancelled and the postmark impressed before it can leave the office for its destination. This work, done by hand, is a slow process, painfully laborious, generally indistinct, and ought to be a thing of the past, inasmuch as the Boston Post Office has demonstrated for the past four years that the work can be rapidly, distinctly and well done by machinery at a greatly reduced cost.



THE AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES

PRESENTS

The Following Illustrations

OF ITS METHOD AND MACHINES.

HAVING

DEVELOPED THE ONLY PRACTICAL METHOD OF HANDLING LETTERS BY MACHINERY;

ITS METHOD

AND MACHINES

PRODUCED AND PERFECTED THE ONLY PRACTICAL MACHINE FOR HANDLING LETTERS.

APPLIED BY THE

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
1875.

1890.

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

During the busy part of the day more than 75,000 letters are faced, stamp-cancelled, postmarked and bunched, ready for distribution to outgoing mails, in one hour.

The regular facing-clerks feed the machines as rapidly as they can handle letters.

The machines cancel, mark and bunch the letters as rapidly as they can be fed.

As machines cannot take the place of facing-clerks, the speed of facing-clerks, and not the speed of machines, governs the process of mailing letters.

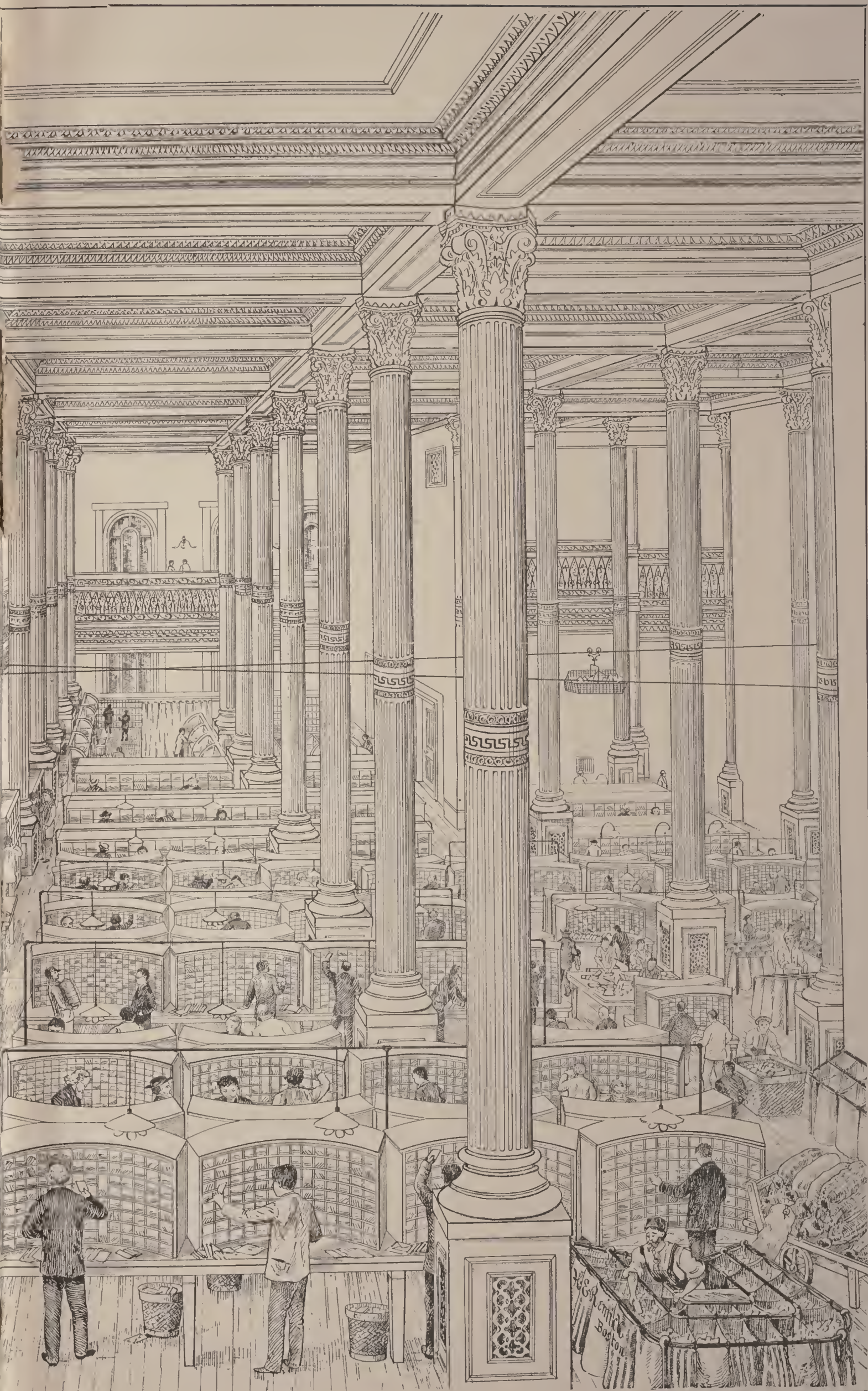
A man who faces and bunches 4,000 letters per hour with one of the machines cannot face and bunch 3,000 per hour without it; and one who can face and bunch 6,000 per hour with the machine cannot face and bunch 5,000 per hour without it.

For facing and bunching letters alone these machines are a great saving to the Government; but when it is understood that they are also stamp-cancelling and post-marking machines as well, doing all the work by one operation, their great value for post office use is at once apparent.



POST OFFICE.

DIVISION.



"The value of the machines is in economy of labor, rapidity of work, and being practically continuous in execution, as they can be worked night and day without cessation. The stamper is simply a facer up for the machines, they doing all the rest of the work automatically and as fast as they can be fed."

Very respectfully

No. 11. 1872.

Postmaster.

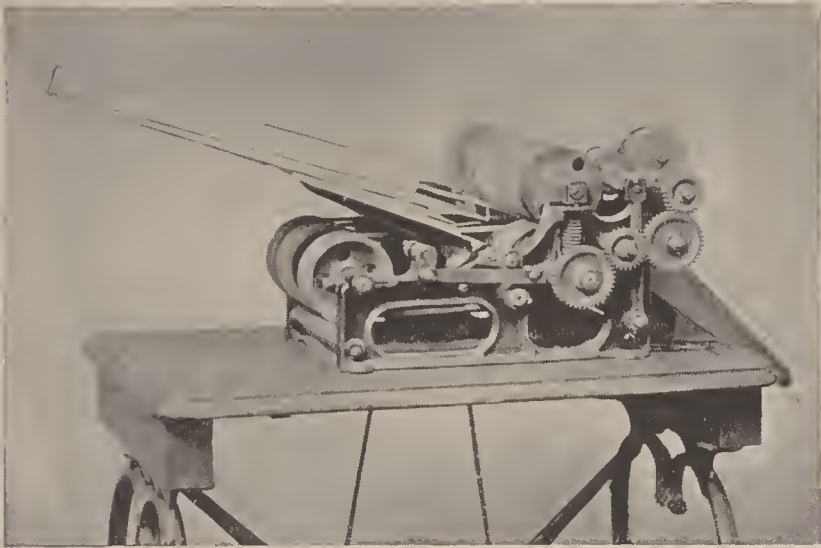
"The Boston Post Office pays a yearly profit of \$1,250,000.

The people who contribute to this profit, and are thereby entitled to quick service, will see that here is the vital point in the transmission of mails, of greater importance even than the increased speed of fast mail trains, because fast mail trains are not especially valuable if the mails are left behind through the inability of the clerks to prepare such vast masses of matter for transportation."

— Boston Herald.

MACHINES OF
STAL MACHINES Co.

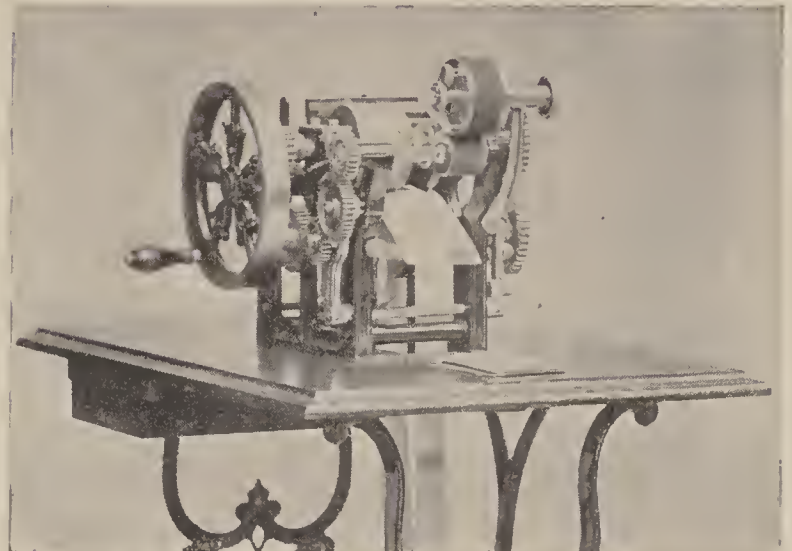
MACHINES OF THE AMERICAN



No. 1. 1875.

For Stamp-cancelling and Postmarking Letters.
Hand Feed. 4,000 per hour.

Adopted by the Postmaster of Boston in 1876.



No. 2. 1877.

For Stamp-cancelling and Postmarking Postal Cards.
Automatic Feed. 400 per minute; 15,000 per hour.

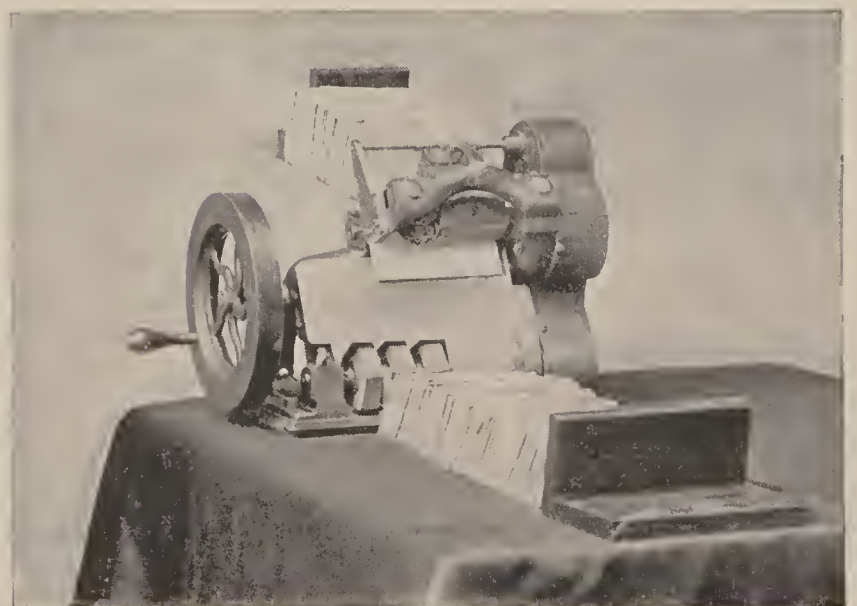
Adopted by Act of Congress of the United States in 1880.



No. 3. 1879.

For Stamp-cancelling and Postmarking Letters.
Automatic Feed. 400 per minute; 15,000 per hour.

Adopted by Act of Congress of the United States in 1882.

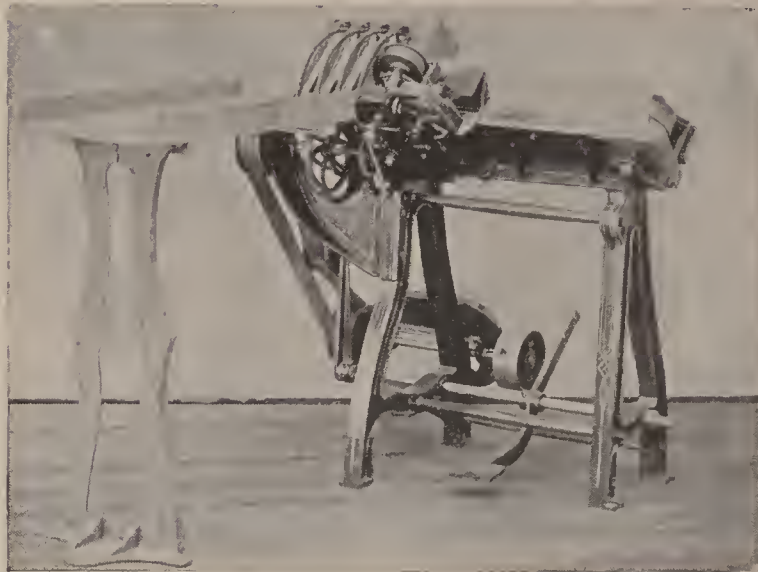


No 4. 1882.

Same as No. 3, with Improvements.

A CONTINUOUS AND PROGRESSIVE LINE OF

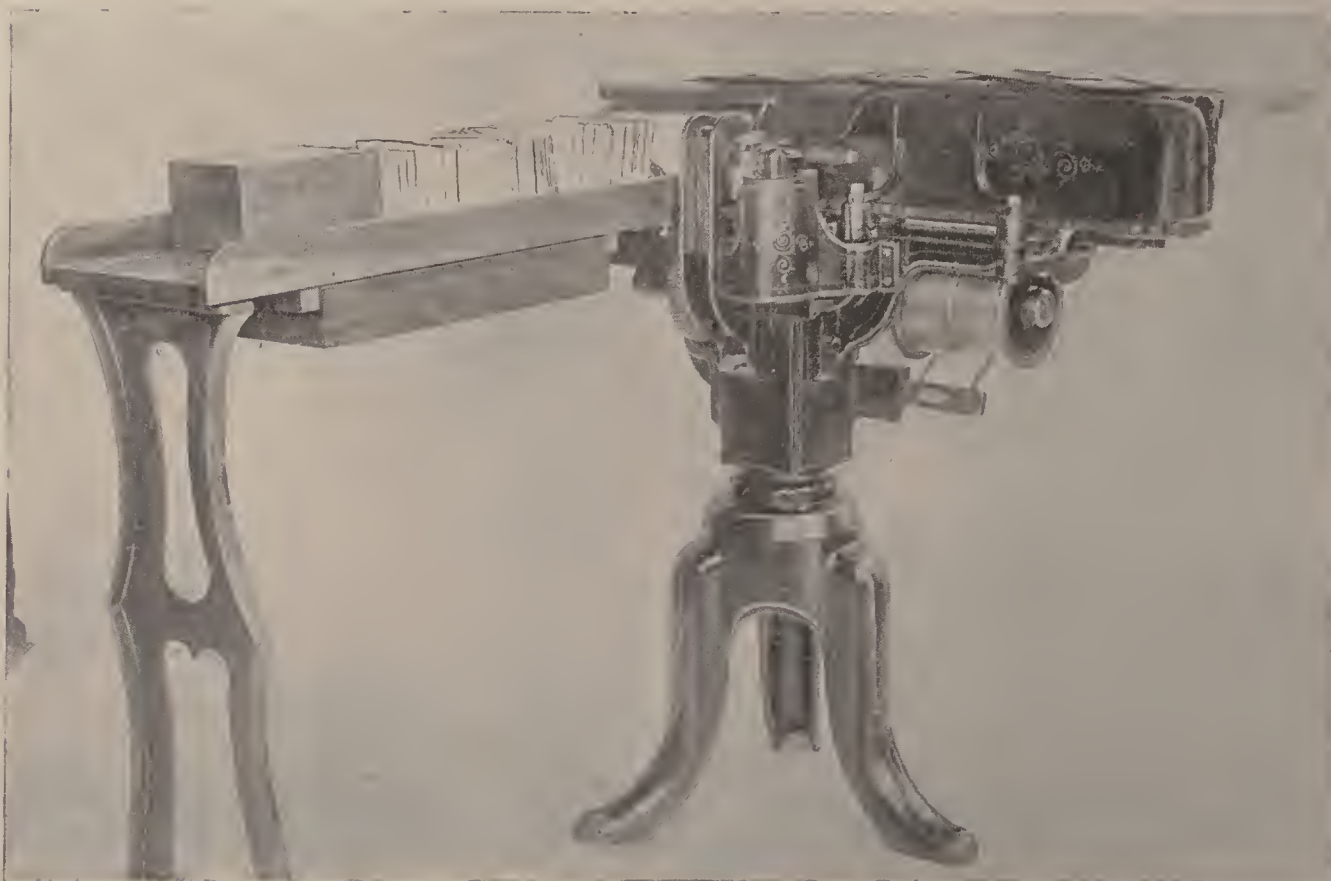
POSTAL MACHINES COMPANY.



No. 5. 1884.

For Facing, Stamp-cancelling, Postmarking, Counting and Bunching Letters and Postal Cards, all by one operation. 100 to 200 per minute; 4,000 to 8,000 per hour, according to the speed of the operator.

Adopted by the Post Office Department of the United States in 1889.



No. 6. 1890.

Same as No. 5, with Improvements.

☞ These machines, unlike automatic-feed machines, are strong and durable in construction; do not easily get out of order; can be operated by any one without experience.

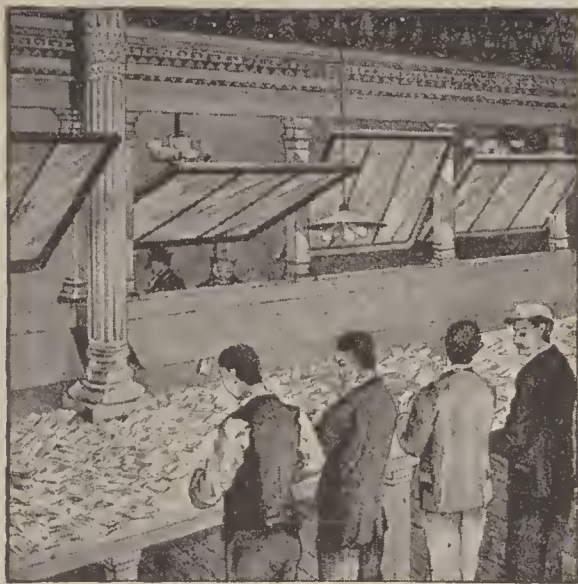
INVENTIONS, PATENTS AND DEVELOPMENT.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROCESS OF MAILING LETTERS

— WITH —

MACHINES OF THE AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES CO.

Facing
and
Bunching.



1870.

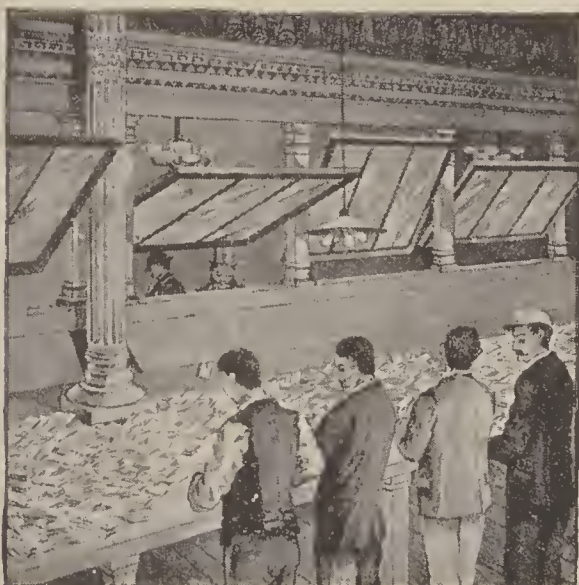
400
per
minute.
15,000
per
hour.



Stamp-cancelling
and
Postmarking.

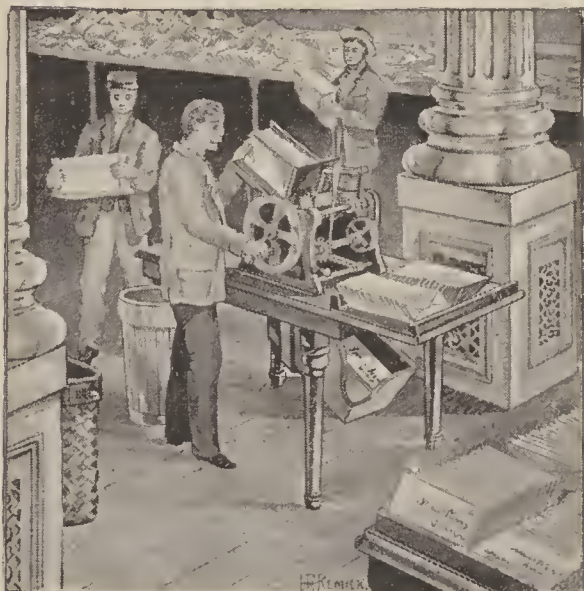
TEN MEN, without machines, cost \$5,000. per year.

Facing
and
Bunching.



1880.

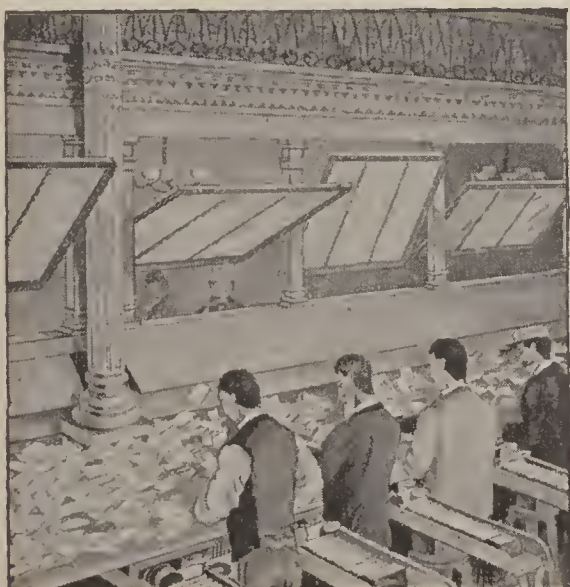
400
per
minute.
15,000
per
hour.



Stamp-cancelling
and
Postmarking.

SEVEN MEN, with one automatic-feed machine, cost \$4,000. per year.

Facing,
Bunching,
Stamp-cancelling
and
Postmarking.



1890.

400
per
minute.
15,000
per
hour.

By this process all the time and space necessary for Stamp-cancelling and Postmarking is saved; the work being *completed* before hand-stampers or automatic-feed machines can even *begin*.

FOUR MEN, with four improved machines, cost \$3,000. per year.

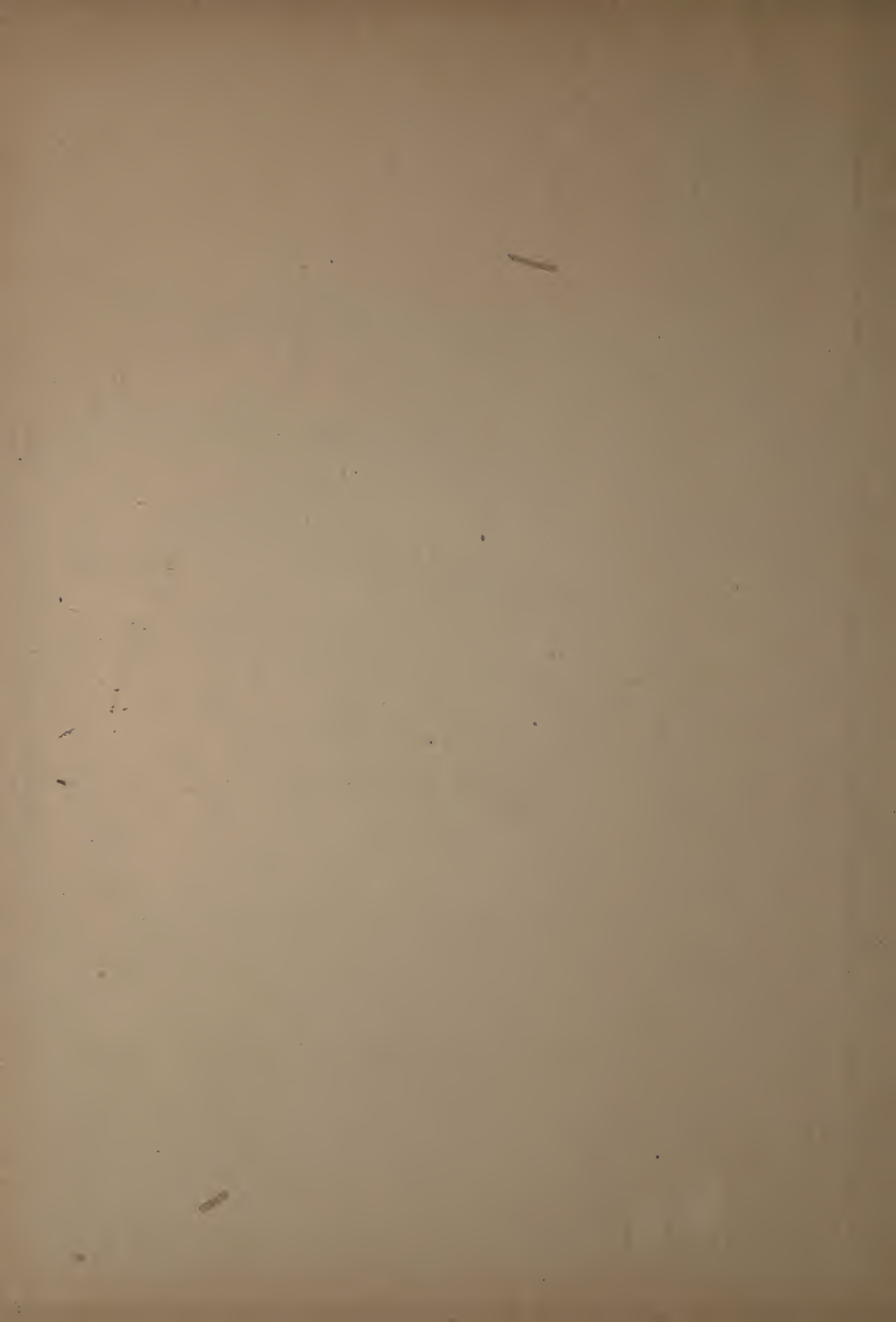
The American Postal Machines Company

Submits the following conclusions:

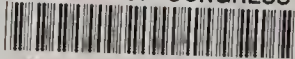
- I. The growth of the Post Office Department of the United States of America exceeds that of all the other nations of the world combined.
- II. Although of the greatest importance to the public, it is, perhaps, the last field in which labor-saving machinery has been adopted.
- III. The difficulties attending the application of machinery to the varying conditions of letters have been so great that this Company, after experimenting for fifteen years, at a cost exceeding \$200,000, has only recently perfected a satisfactory method and machines.
- IV. These machines, on a basis of saving to the Government, are furnished at extremely low rates, and on a basis of their actual cost, with superintendence and repairs, the price is very reasonable.
- V. The increase in efficiency and reduction in cost secured to the postal service by the adoption of these machines is without a parallel in the history of the Post Office Department.



The above cancellation and postmark is a photographic copy of an impression made in the Philadelphia Post Office, with one of the machines of the American Postal Machines Company.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 029 795 617 6